

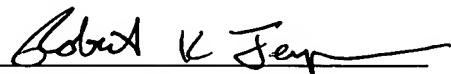
III. Remarks

Applicants respectfully request a copy of the PTO-1449 form indicating consideration of the cited references.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's assertion that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dated: 1/12/04


Robert K. Fergan
Reg. No.: 51,674
Attorney for Applicant(s)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610
(734) 302-6000

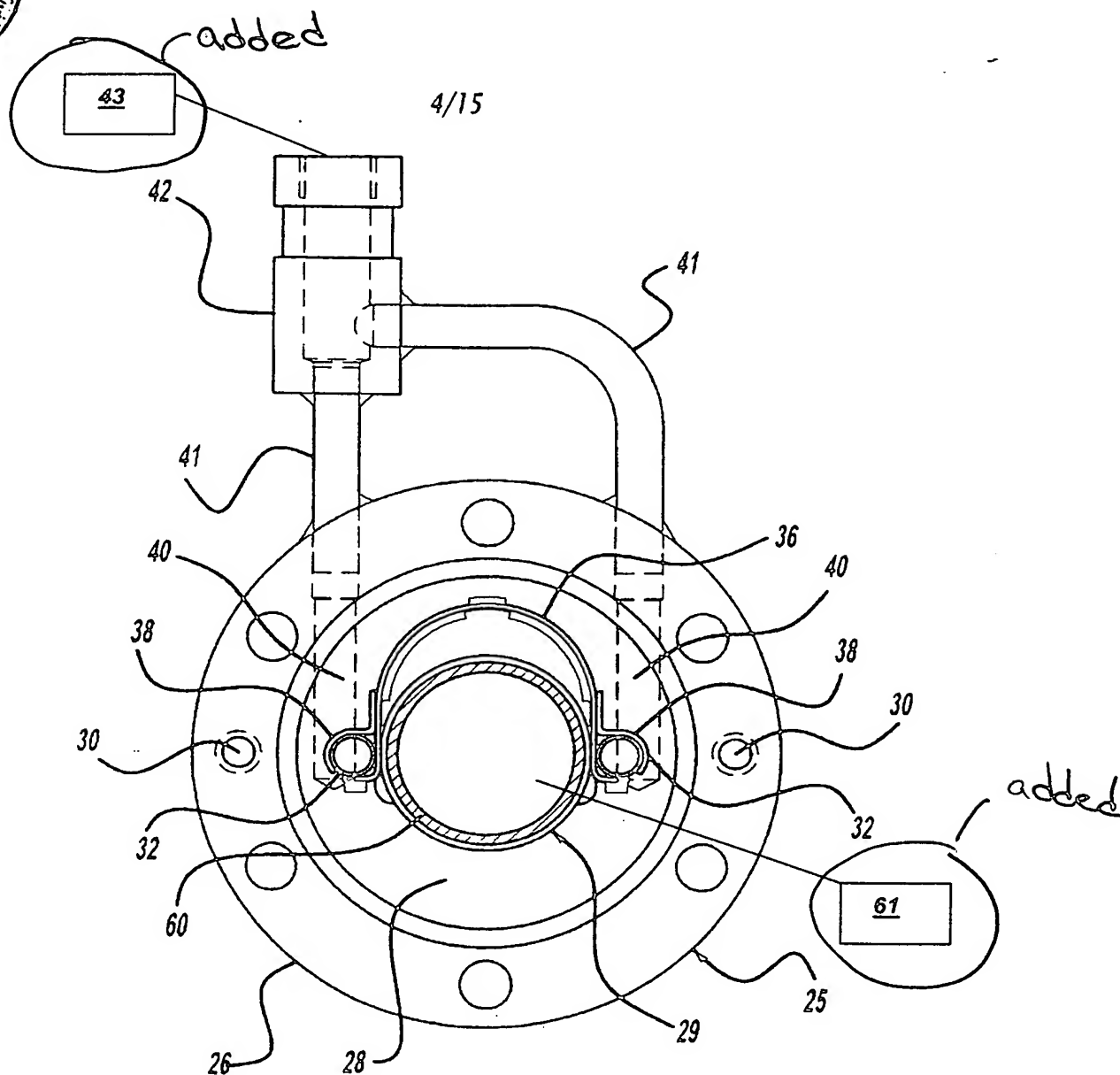


Figure - 4